

# SORROW WITH JOY

**II Corinthians 7:2-16**



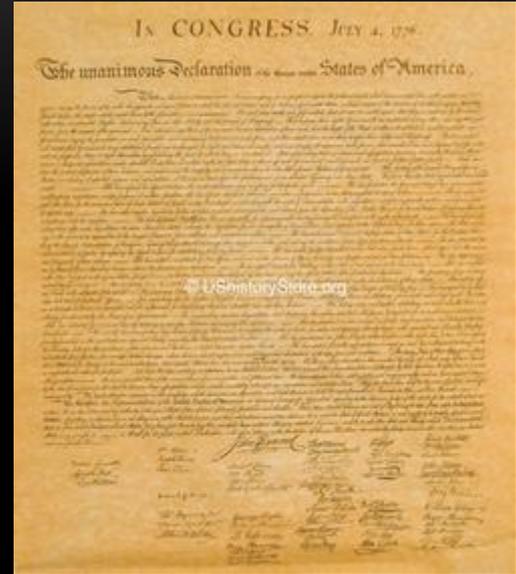
# PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the **pursuit of Happiness.**”

*-U.S. Declaration of Independence*

Is this really a God-given right?

What does the Bible say?



## II CORINTHIANS 7:2-4

**Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.**

## II CORINTHIANS 7:5-9

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

## **II CORINTHIANS 7:10-13a**

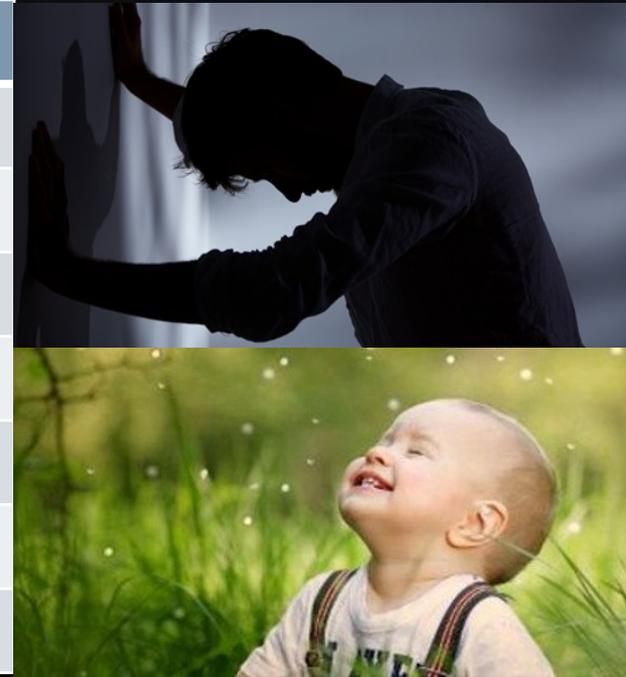
**For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. Therefore we are comforted.**

## **II CORINTHIANS 7:13b-16**

**And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.**

# EMOTION WORDS

<b>“Negative” emotion</b>	<b>Expressions of comfort and joy</b>
<b>Afflictions</b>	<b>Pride</b>
<b>Fear</b>	<b>Joy (6x)</b>
<b>Downcast</b>	<b>Comfort (7x)</b>
<b>Mourning</b>	<b>Refreshed</b>
<b>Grieve (8x)</b>	<b>Affection</b>
<b>Indignation</b>	
<b>Longing</b>	



## II CORINTHIANS 7:2-4 – NIV (2004)

Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have great **confidence** in you; I take great **pride** in you. I am greatly **encouraged**; in all our **troubles** my **joy** knows no bounds.

## II CORINTHIANS 7:5-9 – NIV (2004)

For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were *harassed* at every turn—*conflicts* on the outside, *fears* within. But God, who *comforts* the *downtrodden*, *comforted* us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the *comfort* you had given him. He told us about your *longing* for me, your deep *sorrow*, your ardent *concern* for me, so that my *joy* was greater than ever. Even if I caused you *sorrow* by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did *regret* it—I see that my letter *hurt* you, but only for a little while—yet now I am *happy*, not because you were made sorry, but because your *sorrow* led you to repentance. For you became *sorrowful* as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.

## II CORINTHIANS 7:10-13a – NIV (2004)

Godly **sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly **sorrow** brings death. See what this godly **sorrow** has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what **indignation**, what **alarm**, what **longing**, what **concern**, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. By all this we are **encouraged**.

## II CORINTHIANS 7:13b-16 – NIV (2004)

In addition to our own **encouragement**, we were especially **delighted** to see how **happy** Titus was, because his spirit has been **refreshed** by all of you. I had **boasted** to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our **boasting** about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. And his **affection** for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with **fear** and **trembling**. I am **glad** I can have complete **confidence** in you.

# EMBRACE THE PAIN

- **Godly sorrow leads to repentance.**
- **Paul suffered while advancing the Gospel.**
  - Persecution by others
  - Fear in himself



# GODLY SORROW

- **Godly sorrow leads to repentance (NIV)**
- **Repentance (*metanoia*) is not just a change of mind.**
  - It involves remorse.



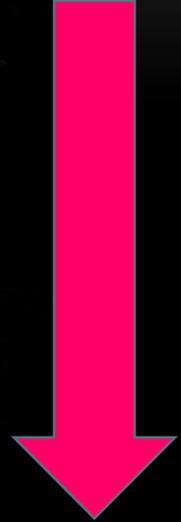
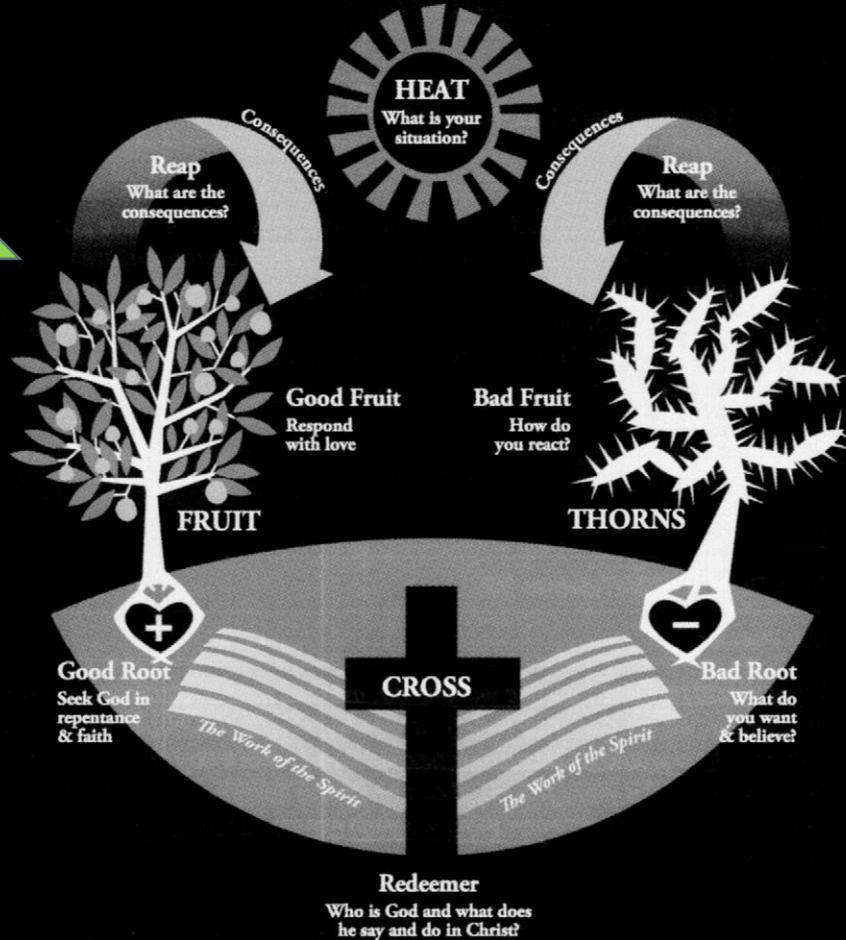
# EMOTIONAL TURMOIL: CAN IT BE FROM GOD?

- **Common thought process**
  - If I push myself in the Kingdom, I feel stress.
  - Stress is not from God.
  - Therefore, I shouldn't do that.
- **Biblical thought**
  - Obedience brings **both** suffering **and** joy.



# OBEDIENCE INDUCES HEAT

Jer 17:5-10



Paul Tripp & Tim Lane,  
**How People Change**  
(New Growth Press, 2006)

# OBEDIENCE AS HEAT

- **Obedience necessitates walking by faith.**
    - Depend on God
  - **Walking by faith exposes**
    - Good fruit—mostly seen by others
    - Thorns—mostly experienced as internal emotional turmoil
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# PURIFICATION

- Clean the dross
- Rejoice in suffering

- *1 Peter 1:7* ...suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- Ps 66:10-12, Zech 13:9, Isa 48:10



# PRESSING AHEAD IN FAITH

- Bible discussion Friday lunchtime at work
  - Minglan in Chinese ladies Bible study
  - Breakfast Bible stories
  - Bible discussion with neighbors
  - English as second language: conversation and Bible
  - Sunday School (elementary age): 3 circles tool and accountability
  - CityTeam
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# DISCIPLE-MAKING IS THE HEART OF GOD

- **Common thought**

- Disciple-making produces fear and feelings of rejection in me.
- I must not have the gift.
- Therefore, the responsibility belongs to someone else.

- **Biblical thought**

- Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. (Mat 10:37)
- Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering (Luke 11:52).
- Paul's anger at Judaizers in Galatians
- God gives gifts to advance His Kingdom. He provides in order to glorify Himself.

# BIBLICAL THOUGHT

- **Mark 8:34-38** And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake **and the gospel's** will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”
- All followers of Jesus live and die for Him and for the Gospel.

# MIXED BAG OF EMOTION IN THE KINGDOM

- **Joy**
  - In seeing new disciples growing
  - In seeing God glorified
  - In relationship with Jesus
- **Suffering while bearing the Gospel**
- **It's not about emotion**

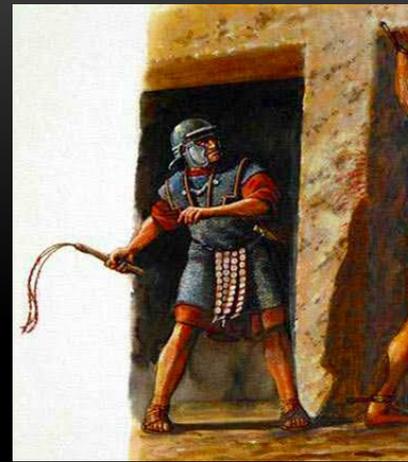


# SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL

- II Cor 1:6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.
  - Apostles suffered for the Gospel.
  - Corinthian believers also suffered for the Gospel.
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# PAUL'S AFFLICTIONS

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within (7:5).



Region	City	II Corinthians	Acts	Afflictions
Macedonia	Philippi	7:5	16:12-40	Severely flogged
	Thessalonica		17:1-9	Riot by Jews & Gentiles
	Berea		17:10-13	Agitated crowds
Asia	Ephesus	1:8-10	19:1-41	Riot by silversmith

# NECESSITY OF 'NEGATIVE' EMOTIONS

- **Sorrowful repentance from sin is necessary.**
  - Including repentance over apathy about the lost
- **Suffering for the Gospel is often necessary.**
  - Doesn't feel good
  - But worth it! Eternal joy!
- **Press through difficulty in obedience by faith.**
  - You will be rewarded with pure faith and the Holy Spirit.

# CHALLENGE TO DISCIPLES

- 1. Is there a sin that I need to repent of?**
- 2. Is there a barrier to break through for the Gospel?**
- 3. Is my life's purpose happiness or the Kingdom of God?**
- 4. What is it going to take to reach the South Bay?**
  - **Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it.**